









Upwood & The Raveleys Newsletter

JUNE 2020 Issue 108

LOCAL LASS RAISES OVER £1000 FOR HER SPARKS CLUB



Lily, who lives in Upwood, was inspired by Captain Tom to do her own fund-raising during the month of May. Lily, who is a member of the Sparks Club in Ramsey, decided to walk a marathon by completing a mile every day for 26 days. She could be seen meeting her own personal challenge pounding the streets of Upwood accompanied by her mum, Helen, and her trusty collection bucket. Lily raised over £1000 from on-line and street donations for her Sparks club. Well done Lily!

Photo: Esther Rowley

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Dear Reader,

We have decided to produce this edition of the newsletter in an attempt to bring you up to date with parish matters during the extraordinary time we are living through. At the same time as receiving this issue (No.108) you should also receive a copy of the April issue (No.107) which was printed prior to the lockdown but not delivered. Hopefully you will find information in both copies which is still of interest to you.

It is reassuring to see how supportive our community has been during the pandemic. Not only has an effective Covidhelp group been set up in record time but many parishioners have also been involved in supporting friends and neighbours through informal arrangements for helping with shopping, collecting medication, dog walking and many other requests.

Many community activities are currently in limbo with little or no idea as to when they may be able to start again. However, in this issue we have tried to concentrate on things which have been taking place as well as plans which groups have for the future.

I am sure you will have appreciated the wonderful countryside which we have on our doorstep with the nature reserves of Upwood Meadows, Lady's Wood and Raveley Wood within easy walking distance. Now may be the time to consider a financial contribution to the Wildlife Trust of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire which runs these reserves and allows us all to have open access.

Finally, I would like to thank all the newsletter contributors who have submitted articles for this issue at very short notice as well as the editors, proof readers and deliverers. We are also indebted to Micromac Printers of Ramsey for turning round this printed copy in next to no time.

Kind regards, Doug McLeod, Newsletter Committee Chairman

THE COVIDHELP GROUP

This administrative group was initially established on 16th March 2020 by 4 residents of the parish and was quickly expanded to include the parish clerk. It co-ordinates support requests and volunteer activities.

The group aims to: · identify residents within the Upwood and the Raveleys parish who require support as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic,

- · identify local volunteers who can help provide support, and
- · assist to coordinate voluntary activities so help can get to those who need it.

The two parish-wide leaflet campaigns were aimed at:

- . raising awareness of the volunteer group and advising that local support is available to residents who require practical assistance while self-isolating and
- · identifying volunteers to provide any necessary assistance.

The Covidhelp group can be contacted either by using the voicemail service (07483281656) or the email account (covidhelp@upwood.org); both are manned by the Covidhelp group administrators. There has been a steady number of requests for help from local residents and a large number of volunteers offering their assistance.

Volunteers

There was a very positive response from residents offering to volunteer when the group was established, for which we are extremely grateful.

- · 94 volunteers and their families offered their assistance
- · Volunteers from all areas of the parish joined the group Fairmead Park 13, Farm Close 3, Great Raveley 7, Little Raveley 3 and Upwood village 68.
- · Volunteers offered to support a wide range of activities, including leaflet drops, prescription collection, dog walking, supportive phone calls and shopping, amongst many other activities.

To keep the volunteers informed they are updated via email as to what has or is currently happening.

Support Provided

Since the group was established volunteers have supported 37 formal requests for assistance, as well as many other informal ones.

The Covidhelp group received the largest number of requests for support during April but as the lockdown eases the number of requests for support are declining. However, as requests are still being received it has been decided to maintain the helpline at least for the month of June and then review the situation.

There have been requests for help from residents in all the areas of the parish but, unsurprisingly, the largest number of requests has come from the residents of Upwood village.

Volunteers have provided support in various ways but the support most requested was for assistance with shopping and prescription collection.

In addition to the support provided by volunteers through the Covidhelp Group we know that a large number of support activities are being provided by residents through informal networks and neighbourly support - this is fantastic and just goes to show the wonderful camaraderie that exists in our parish.

As government guidelines begin to ease the lockdown, we anticipate some further reduction in the number of requests the helpline will receive as residents begin to complete more activities themselves. However as there are general reports of risks of a second peak, we believe that it is advisable to maintain the Covidhelp volunteer group for the foreseeable future.

Dianna Chattaway, Covidhelp group administrator

PARISH COUNCIL



The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all areas of our lives and the parish council is no exception. New legislation came into force on 4th April to enable local councils to meet remotely. Three meetings have successfully taken place over "Zoom". Members of the public are welcome to attend, and instructions are included on the agenda for each meeting.

The "Covidhelp" working party was established at the start of the pandemic. Please see the separate report on pages 2 and 3.

The parish council met on 14th April, 4th May & 1st June.

Councillors: The parish council acknowledged with regret the resignation of Councillor Twose in April and Councillor Slater with effect from 5th August. Both will be sorely missed. The council was pleased to welcome Councillor Jan Burgess and Councillor Paul Chegwidden. Both bring extensive skills and experience which will add immeasurably to the team.

SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) in March: SID 1 was positioned in Little Raveley to record traffic approaching from Wennington. 210 vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit, 16 of which registered speeds of between 40 and 45 mph.

SID 2 was positioned on Huntingdon Road, south of the junction with Meadow Road, to record traffic travelling from Bury towards Huntingdon. Although traffic volume has reduced from nearly 1700 vehicles per day in January to around 880 in March, the percentage of vehicles exceeding the speed limit of 40 mph has risen sharply to 38.53% which is 10,621 vehicles (of a total of 27,567 vehicles during the month), from 29th February to 31st March 2020. 433 of these vehicles registered speeds between 60-70 mph and a further 33 between 70-84mph.

SIDs in April: To avoid infringing on Covid-19 regulations the two SIDs were left in the same position as they were in March. The graphics were turned off to save battery life and see if there was a difference to behaviour if motorists felt that their data was not being recorded.

SID 1 was positioned in Little Raveley to monitor vehicles approaching from Wennington. 2,630 vehicles were recorded, 86 (3.26%) of which were in violation of the 30mph speed limit.

SID 2 was positioned on Huntingdon Road monitoring vehicles approaching from Great Raveley. With the graphics turned off the percentage of vehicles exceeding the 40mph speed limit increased from 38.53% in March to 43.57% in April. Although Covid-19 restrictions have reduced traffic volume (an average of 470 vehicles daily in April compared to approximately 1,700 in "normal" times) traffic speeds have increased considerably. Of the 14,199 vehicles recorded during April, 6186 were in violation of

the 40mph limit. 4,327 vehicles were recorded travelling between 50 and 60 mph and 57 vehicles between 70 and 90 mph.

SIDs in May: SID 1 was positioned by the cricket field entrance on Huntingdon Road to monitor traffic approaching from Bury. The traffic has increased almost to prepandemic restrictions with around 1400 vehicles per day. More than 6000 vehicles were in violation of the 40mph speed limit.

SID 2 was positioned by the allotments on Huntingdon Road to monitor traffic approaching from Great Raveley. Traffic volume has more than doubled since April. Speed violations have fallen from 43% to 13.72% which would indicate that the SIDs are making a difference when the graphics are illuminated. However, more than 5000 vehicles were recorded travelling at speeds exceeding the 40mph limit, with several travelling at over 80mph and one at 97mph!

Councillors continue to debate exacerbating concerns for increasing traffic speed and volume. The parish council will lobby the leader of the county council and Shailesh Vara MP for the installation of average speed cameras to control traffic speeds; although these would do nothing to mitigate the increased traffic volume brought about by excessive housing development in neighbouring parishes. The existing speed indicator devices provide invaluable data and do prompt many drivers to moderate their speed. As Cambridgeshire County Council Highways has recommended that this parish would benefit from three or four SIDs, the parish council has agreed to apply (with a contribution of £1,500) to the Local Highway Improvement Initiative for a third.

Youth Activities: It is hoped that the "Active Lives" sessions planned for the summer will be able to go ahead. They are planned to take place on Friday mornings from 10:30am to 12:30pm on 24th & 31st July & 7th August on the playing field in Upwood. These will be followed on 14th, 21st & 28th August with sessions on the field at Bury Village Hall. These activities are suitable for children aged between 5 and 14. Local businesses or members of the public who may wish to sponsor one or more of these sessions are invited to contact the parish clerk.

The parish council is considering a strategy for youth provision. Councillors would like the views of our young residents regarding the type of activities they might like to have access to in the future. Please see the separate report on the next page.

Future Meetings: 6th July (no meeting in August), 7th September. All are welcome to attend.

Detailed information pertaining to the business of the parish council may be found at www.upwood.org Please "like" the parish council's Facebook page for regular updates.

Carol Bilverstone

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

UPWOOD UKULELES



Upwood Ukuleles have been meeting via the power of Zoom every Thursday evening as usual during the lockdown. However, all of their gigs, and consequently all of their fundraising activities

for Magpas Air Ambulance, have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Undaunted by this set-back the band members have set about producing two videos to encourage people to continue donating to their designated charity. These can both be viewed on the Upwood Ukuleles' YouTube channel. There is a pandemic version of their

famous Magpas Air Ambulance Anthem which involves all twelve members of the group as well as a video of a new song called "Bertie the Fastest Uke in the South-west". This song, which pays due homage to the late great Benny Hill, was videoed and directed by Tim and Emily Howard with all parts being played by Pauline and Doug McLeod.



CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS

The Parish Council are looking at youth provision within the parish and would like your views on what you would like to see provided.

Please take a few moments to complete this short survey called 'Upwood & The Raveleys Youth Provision' by visiting the link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DYVLLHL

If you are aged between 5 and 18 this is your chance to tell the councillors what changes you would like to see in the parish.

Don't miss the chance to have your say.

SurveyMonkey[®]



The Great Fen Team are working hard to try to make the relevant provision to be able to welcome back its visitors to the Countryside Centre, such as clubs and organisations

and of course school visits. The Government's guidelines are being followed and every consideration to the safety of its visitors and staff is being planned. It is hoped that some form of family events will take place in August although this will depend on practicalities and advice at the time.

At the moment, please check our main website **www.wildlifetrustbcn.org** for up to date information.

Mandy Corney

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Here at St Peter's we are very sad that the church, in common with every other place of worship, has been closed for safety reasons. Obviously 12th century buildings do not easily lend themselves to deep cleaning products and we need to be absolutely sure that the members of our congregation and our (many) visitors are protected from this horrible virus. However, we continue to pray, as a church, for the safety and well-being of everybody in the parish and to give thanks for the many acts of kindness which have lightened the darkness of these difficult weeks.

Our ever-zealous Churchwardens, Jean Place and Robin Singleton, are in regular touch with the Ely Diocesan advisors and as soon as it is possible St Peter's will be open as usual. We are very fortunate in that the Reverends Val and Fred Kilner are in regular touch, as is our own Vicki Latter. They can all be contacted through the churchwardens - contact details are on the church notice board.

The good news is that a new Rector has been appointed to the Benefice, his name is lain George Osborne and he is currently working as the curate in the Oakham Team Ministry. He will be joining the Benefice at the end of the summer as soon as the new rectory is complete and, most importantly, it is judged safe and appropriate for him to do so. He joins us with his wife Susan and his two children, both of whom are currently at university.

Jo Paxton

HANDBELLS RINGERS NEWS

Following the lockdown, Deanna had the great idea of having a "News of the Week" meeting involving all the members of the team until we would be able to meet up again. And that's what we have done! We talk about gardening, house tidying, families, painting & sewing and have had very nice chats during the past 11 weeks, and I am sure we will continue to do so until we can meet again in person.

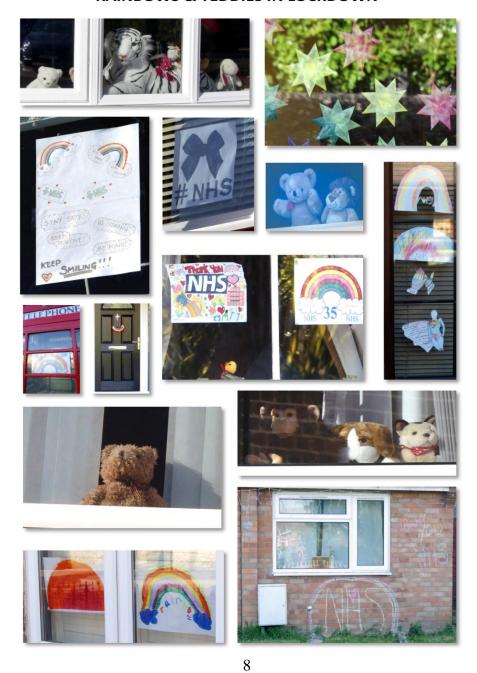
Our beloved bells are silent and safe until St Peter's Church re-opens and we are able to practise.

With a lot of the team being retired, we are erring on the side of caution and cannot foresee being able to get together to play much before the end of the year or even into next year (but we hope it will be sooner!)

The last time we met together we played "We'll Meet Again" and we are looking forward to playing it again, maybe with a few new faces if anyone feels like a challenge and lots of fun. You will be joining a very friendly team.

Anne-Marie Cracknell

RAINBOWS & TEDDIES IN LOCKDOWN





UPWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY



Our new virtual classrooms

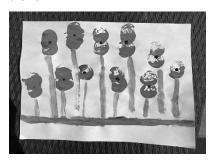
Since March, the pupils at Upwood Primary Academy have been learning from home. It's been a difficult time, but our pupils have made us very proud with their hard work and how well they have continued to learn and grow.

We have been posting updates on our Facebook page, encouraging the children across all years to share their

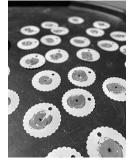
fantastic work with us and other pupils. This has been a great way to showcase the excellent work the children have been doing and letting them see what their friends have been getting up to! The activities have ranged from making colourful rainbows to put in their windows, decorating stones, making bird feeders, continuing their Viking learning and making a hamster house as well as lots more!

Getting creative for VE Day

All of our classes took part in learning about "Victory in Europe" Day. The students made some brilliant artwork to celebrate the 75th anniversary. It was great to see so much creativity and enthusiasm for the day. Pupils have shared their creations through our Facebook page, showcasing their buntings, poppies, medals and other fantastic artwork.







Being busy in the garden

Charlotte used her gardening skills to plant some seedlings which she sold to her neighbours to raise money for the NHS. This was such a fantastic way to help our key workers while learning a new skill too! Cecily and Alice have also been growing their own vegetables and they've had their first tomatoes come through!

It's great to see our children getting stuck into a range of activities while they're away from school.

Samantha Ladds

UPWOOD AND RAVELEY COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

ALLOTMENT NEWS- Coping through the Pandemic Lockdown.



Well, what strange and anxious times we are living through in 2020, although the allotments are thriving in these difficult times. This invisible Coronavirus, Covid-19, invaded our lives and restricted our routines severely during the early days of lockdown. Initially, we were only allowed to exercise for a short period of perhaps an hour or so and within a short distance of home. Thank goodness the Government acknowledged working on an allotment to be a form of

exercise. Maybe that is why although at the start of Spring we had several 'ready to use' plots available these have now all been taken up with new tenants all keen to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Initially what was very noticeable was the almost complete absence of traffic on the roads and the accompanying noise along the road to Huntingdon. For much of the day, the only sounds heard were beautiful bird song or the humming of bees. Undisturbed, there was more evidence of wildlife too. A sparrow hawk was seen repeatedly dive bombing a fruit cage as a couple of goldfinches harboured inside. In the relative silence, everyone became aware of the sounds of nature going on around them. It was taking some of the allotment holders back to the simpler times of yesteryear, without the frenetic rat race so often experienced in modern day Britain. Unfortunately, as lockdown is eased this utopia is fast disappearing and the traffic and noise are again beginning to impinge on our senses.

There have been some ups and downs - in February we were delighted to receive our new noticeboard from Fitzpatrick Woolmer, thanks to a generous grant from Grantscape, and this is now in place just inside the Meadow Road entrance to the Upwood site. Do stop and browse the notices — forthcoming events, plant swaps and plots to let are all regular features. Unfortunately, the brand-new tap installed by Anglia Water was tampered with during March and with the lock-down in place, it took longer than usual to get it fixed. In the meantime, water was made available from a dunking trough so no one went without! Our heart-felt thanks to 'Joe the Plumber' who helped us out, and to Paul our 'Water Monitor' who looked after the trough.

During lockdown working on an allotment has proved to be a calming and creative experience. It can be all-absorbing and working with the soil makes one feel grounded and at one with nature. During April, after the dreadfully wet and cold couple of months before lockdown, the weather was fine and sunny but with very little rain. The month of May was a record breaker, seeing very high temperatures with virtually no rainfall. Most allotment holders have taken advantage of the good weather and worked industriously on their plots. They have sown a fantastic array of vegetable plants and seeds. Squash, tomatoes, asparagus, lettuce, beans, peas, potatoes, carrots etc. are benefitting from the warmth of the soil and long hours of sunshine. There are all sorts

of clever structures to support the growth of beans and peas, whilst net curtains have been recycled to protect plants from birds and animals.

Perhaps you've noticed the amazing scarecrow Medic adorned in PPE with clipboard in hand on your ambles through the allotments. Many thanks to Carol and friends for producing such an original, life-like and thought-provoking statue to remind us all of the sacrifices the NHS are making. You may also have noticed a rather 'ripe' smell about the allotments — it seems that 'eau de cheval' (aka horse manure) is a very popular theme this year, with a local farmer supplying many of the plots with trailer-loads of the lovely stuff. It has certainly been put to good use covering one of the less-tenable plots that badly needed some rejuvenation and will, hopefully, provide four, beautiful ready-to-use small plots come the winter months when it will be rotovated in.

Most allotment holders look as though they have spent a month in the south of France and look very relaxed too. If you've never enjoyed an allotment experience, it's probably time to get one! If you are interested, please contact: Liz Carter on **813008** or email **lizcarter261@btinternet.com** for more details. We have a range of plot sizes available.

**Lesley Owen & Liz Carter*

UPWOOD COMMUNITY ORCHARD



The Community Orchard is looking good and let's hope this early June rain will save the newly planted rose hedge, sponsored by the Upwood ladies group Home to Home. The Community Orchard is a wonderful place to come and relax, enjoy the views across the Fens and listen to the birdsong, whilst watching the Red Kite soar above you.

Do come along and walk through the allotment plots, enjoy the poppies and daisies growing on the bottom of the site and sit in our Community Orchard but please make sure your dog is kept on a lead at all times and clear up any mess.

Liz Carter

UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The pandemic restrictions have meant that the published programme of meetings is currently suspended. However, we have started to explore options for moving some typical History Group activities online - either using email or Zoom. Current ideas include a 'show and tell' sharing session, a themed talk and an information circular or an exchange of views between interested members. We will let members know more in the near future.

Mervyn Harvey

UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS



The much-anticipated concert with mother and daughter, Chris & Kellie While, scheduled for 26th June has been cancelled and, reluctantly, it has also been decided to cancel **all** the concerts scheduled between now and the end of November 2020.

However, we have been working closely with all these artists and have managed to reschedule dates for 2021 in most cases. This, of course, is dependent on the village hall re-opening and our ability to comply with all safety arrangements in place at the time.

So far, with fingers tightly crossed, we have booked the following:-

Thurs 3rd December 2020 Melrose Quartet (likely to be re-scheduled)

Thurs 21st January 2021 Mile Twelve

Fri 12th March 2021 State of the Union

Thurs 20th May 2021 FARA (re-scheduled from October 2020)

Sun 27th June 2021 Chris & Kellie While (re-scheduled from June 2020)

Thurs 21st October 2021 Salt House

Thurs 11th November Daoiri Farrell (re-scheduled from March 2020)

Still to be rearranged: Hannah Rarity and Granny's Attic.

UPWOOD VILLAGE HALL



As you would expect, the village hall has been closed since the lockdown began; however, we have taken this as an opportunity to get it spruced up. Helen, our fantastic cleaner, has been going in and has done a superb job giving the hall a thorough spring cleaning and has even managed to get to

cobwebs high up in the pitched ceiling with a feather duster on a long pole!

The management committee are also starting to think about any additional safety measures that we may need to put in place when we reopen, particularly in the kitchen and toilet areas and we are following guidance from organisations such as Cambridgeshire ACRE who do a great job in supporting rural villages and community buildings.

In the meantime, on behalf of the hall committee, please stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back to a beautifully clean and fresh village hall as soon as we are able to do so.

Steve Howes (Village Hall Chairman)

RAMSEY AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB



Like other groups we are locked down because of the Covid-19. It is unclear if we will be able to meet in September as, even if restrictions are lifted, with the numbers in the club we would not be able to maintain social distancing. It is a case of watch this space. We have been able to keep up some contact through our Newsletter but this is no substitute for talks and visits. If there is a positive

side it is that our members have had more time to look after their gardens but there is not much fun in that if you can't share it with your friends and neighbours.

The Garden Club is a friendly group and normally we have a range of talks and demonstrations on many aspects of plants and topics related to gardening.

For further information please contact Ian Gaunt 710702; ian.gaunt@care4free.net.



At the moment we are not clear if it will be possible to open at all this season. We are waiting for government advice and advice from Museum organisations. Other heritage sites in Ramsey have decided to remain closed for the year and other small and volunteer-run museums in the East of England have made the same decision.

Some of our wonderful volunteers are using their permitted exercise time to maintain the site by cutting the grass and generally keeping it tidy. They are also taking advantage of the time to revise some of the displays.

At the beginning of the lockdown period the fencing around the site was extended to improve the security. The wall of one of the historic buildings was showing signs of damage and this has been repaired. We will be ready to re-open – when permitted.

If you would like further information about the museum or volunteering please contact lan Gaunt **710702**; ian.gaunt@care4free.net

HEALTHWATCH has launched a new survey to gather information about people's health, care and community support experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. It's anonymous and takes about 10 minutes to do online via their websites. The findings will be published fortnightly and will go back to local NHS and care services as well as to Healthwatch England to help inform the national response to the pandemic.

They want to hear from everyone as we've all been affected by the changes in our lives due to coronavirus. But they are particularly keen to hear from those most affected by changes to health or care services, or whose mental health has been affected. This includes people who are shielding, older people, and people with long-term health conditions. Please try to find the time to fill in this survey. You will find it at:

www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGES

Organisation	Contact	Telephone
Art Group	Gill Shelford	812009
Book Lovers Group	Julia Evans	711388
Chairman of Parish Council	Robin Howe	814393
Community Bus Co-ordinator	Dave Blandford	711330
Community Navigators	Beatrice Brown	01480 423065
County Councillor	Terry Rogers	rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cricket Club	Neil Tuffin	812924
District Councillors	Jill Tavener /	jill.tavener@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
	Graham Bull	graham.bull@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
HACT: Community Bus		01480 411114
History Group	Ian Gaunt	710702
Home to Home	Pauline McLeod	814114
Meet and Munch	Jan Howe	814393
Nene Valley Gliding Club	Peter Valentine	8541653
Parish Clerk	Carol Bilverstone	812447
Ramsey Bridge Club	Paddy Slater	812006
Ramsey Camera Club	Trevor Brown	711541
Ramsey Choral Society	June Green	813562
Ramsey & District Garden Club	Ian Gaunt	710702
Ramsey Rural Museum	Ian Gaunt	710702
Ramsey Tennis Club	Jonny Wicks	07724 152382
Seated Exercise	Tom Milner	info@oakactivities.com
Small to Tall (Upwood School Clubs)	Angie Dean	802086
St Peter's Church Matters	Jean Place	813742
St Peter's Handbells	Anne-Marie Cracknell	812195
Table Tennis Club	Jack Holloway	711551
U3A	Enid Hubbard	tandehubbard@tiscali.co.uk
Upwood Community Orchard	Liz Carter	813008
Upwood Craft & Chat	Heather Wakefield	814432
Upwood Golf Society	Howard Smith	711999
Upwood & Raveley Community Allotments	Liz Carter	813008
Upwood and Raveley Community Archive	Ramsey Rural	815715; treasurer@ramseyrural
	Museum	museum.co.uk
Upwood Academy	Rachel Allerton	Rachel.Allerton@athene-
		communications.co.uk
UVH Performing Arts Events Shows	Doug McLeod	814114
Village Hall Hire	Bob Child	815475

The editors are diligent but regret that they cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions

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The Newsletter can also be viewed and downloaded online: www.upwood.org

EDWARDS' FARM SHOP



Social distancing is practised and plants and compost have been added to their usual fruit and vegetables stock. Christine and Haydn have risen to the challenge of the lockdown amazingly and we wish them every success in the future as they continue to serve our community with a smile and a very welcoming, helpful service.

There has been a Farm Shop in Upwood High Street for decades, but never has it proved its worth more than during the current pandemic. Christine and Haydn (and family) have responded magnificently. A friendly and efficient delivery service to the vulnerable was introduced immediately and instead of just their usual Friday opening they can be found 'plying their trade' in Upwood every Saturday as well.





